

DC

UNIVERSE

4

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6-ISSUE
MINI-
SERIES

SNYDER
JOCK
BARON

THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS



THE **MONSTER** INSIDE!



WHAT HAPPENS TO
THE WORLD'S GREATEST
SUPER HEROES
WHEN THE
WORLD
ENDS?

A terrifying 6-issue
limited series

DCEASED

Written by TOM TAYLOR
Art by TREVOR HAIRSINE
and STEFANO GAUDIANO

MAY



There's a saying here in Gotham... it was adopted from the Miagani Tribe who lived here long ago...

...before they were all murder.

It goes...
"Happiness is seeing the world through the eyes of children."

There's even a Latin version on our subway token.
"Through new eyes..."

There's truth in it, though.

I've never told anyone this, but whenever I have a... whenever I doubt myself, or my mission as Batman (like now...), I try to see things through my children's eyes.

Dick was the first Robin. He had the happiest eyes. Circus eyes. Weightless. Leaping, never falling.

But it's true of all of them.

So remind yourself, Bruce. Now. Quickly...

...feel it. The joy, the it brings...

THE BATCAVE. NOW.

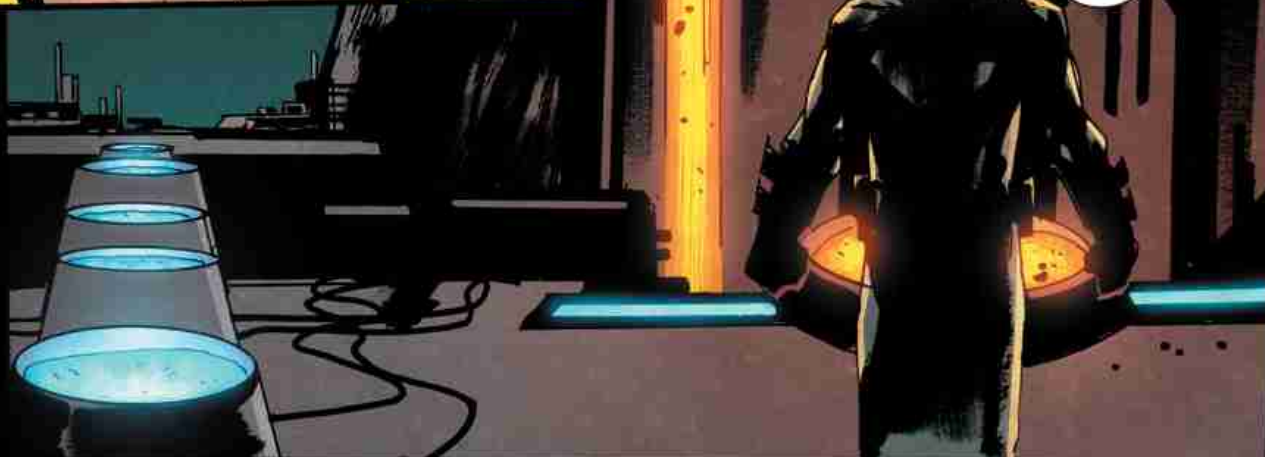


...to look into
your child's
eyes...

...see the
world as
they see it.

WHAT
HAVE YOU
DONE?!

WHAT
I HAD
TO.



WHAT
ARE
YOU--

TAKE
THAT DAMNED
THING OFF RIGHT
NOW! LET ME
SEE YOUR
BLOODY...



...EYES--

--MY
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ALFRED.

DO NOT.
DO. THAT.
AGAIN.

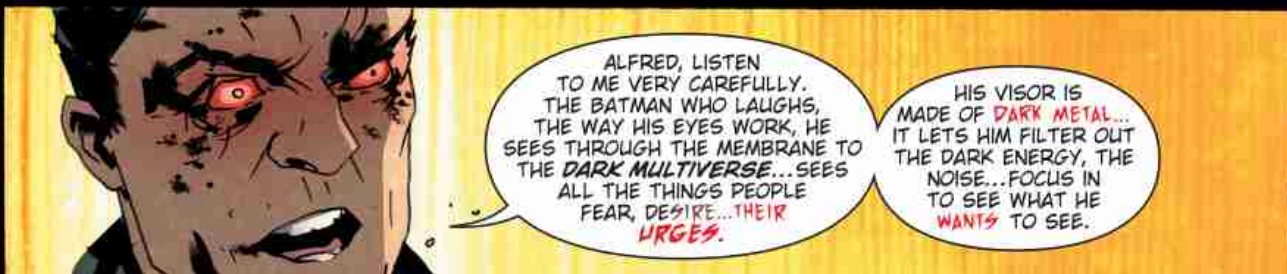
YOU'RE...YOU'RE
NOT BRUCE
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GIVE
ME THE
VISOR.

NO! EVERY
MONSTER YOU'VE
FACED...YOU ALWAYS WON
BY REMAINING TRUE TO
WHO YOU ARE.

MY BOY. BRUCE
WAYNE. THIS...I
WON'T LET YOU!









"LOOK AT
YOU GO..."



...STRUGGLING
AND FIGHTING EVEN
THOUGH THERE'S
NOWHERE
TO RUN.

THERE,
YOU CAN
SEE!

HELLO.

SO GOOD
TO FINALLY
MEET YOU,
JIM.

MMNN!

I NEVER
TOLD YOU THIS, BUT
WHEN I WAS BATMAN,
YOU WERE MY **BEST
FRIEND.**

AFTER ALL, YOU WERE THE
ONE WHO TAUGHT THEM
HOW TO SEE BATMAN FOR
WHO HE WAS, THE LIGHT
IN THE SKY...

...BUT ME, AS I
AM NOW, I NEVER GOT
TO MEET YOU. SEE, ON MY
WORLD, I WAS BORN JUST
AFTER JOKER FINALLY
CROSSED THE LINE, KILLED
CROC, FREEZE, ALL THE
VILLAINS, HUNDREDS OF
PEOPLE, DEAD.

YOU, THOUGH, EVEN
THEN YOU WERE DETERMINED
TO BRING HIM IN **BY
THE BOOK.**

SO TO BE FUNNY,
JOKER BOOBY-TRAPPED YOUR
NOTEBOOK WITH THIS SPRING-
LOADED ACID...

GGGKKK.

YES, YOU
MADE A SOUND
JUST LIKE
THAT.

THE THING I
REMEMBER MOST WAS
CATCHING YOUR GLASSES.
I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT
WAS HAPPENING YET, THEN I
LOOKED UP AND SAW IT WAS
**BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T
HAVE A NOSE
ANYMORE.**

BUT HERE
YOU ARE, NOSE
AND ALL! HAA! FUNNY,
BECAUSE IF IT WASN'T
FOR YOUR DEATH...BAT-
MAN WOULDN'T HAVE
KILLED THE JOKER
AND THERE'D BE
NO ME.

SEE, IN A
WAY, YOU'RE
MY **BEST
FRIEND, TOO.**
HAHA!



SO WELCOME, BEST FRIEND, TO MY HOME BENEATH GOTHAM CITY!

I THINK YOU'LL FIND IT PLEASANT ENOUGH, IF YOU BEHAVE BY MY BOOK.

ON THE OTHER HAND, IF YOU MISBEHAVE...



WELL, YOU AND THE GRIM KNIGHT, YOU'RE DECIDEDLY NOT FRIENDS, ON HIS WORLD...

PLEASE MISBEHAVE, JIM.

*MAKE SURE YOU READ THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS: THE GRIM KNIGHT #1!--K.K.



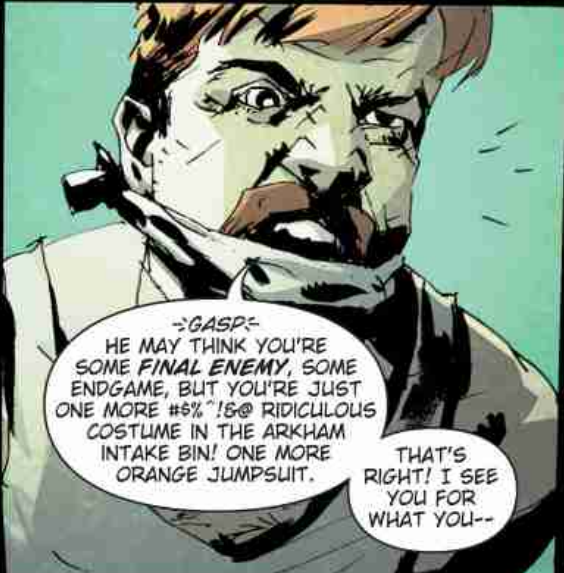
MMFFF!

DON'T WORRY, YOU WON'T BE HERE LONG! WE'RE ALMOST DONE, JIM. SEE THERE? ON THAT TABLET

I ALREADY HAVE FOUR CANISTERS...AND SIX WILL BE JUST ENOUGH TO CHANGE THE WHOLE CITY.

YOU GET TO SEE IT THIS TIME, JIM.

HEY, WITH A LITTLE SERUM, MAYBE YOU AND I CAN EVEN BE PARTNERS HERE, TOO.



~GASP~ HE MAY THINK YOU'RE SOME FINAL ENEMY, SOME ENDGAME, BUT YOU'RE JUST ONE MORE ##%~!\$@ RIDICULOUS COSTUME IN THE ARKHAM INTAKE BIN! ONE MORE ORANGE JUMPSUIT.

THAT'S RIGHT! I SEE YOU FOR WHAT YOU--



--ARE.

I'M SURE YOU DO, JIM.

HERE. DON'T FORGET THESE.

ELSEWHERE...

Dick always liked the rooftops...all of them did. Swinging, flying...seeing the city from above.

I prefer the streets, with the Batmobile in as a station wagon, a sedan, a taxi...

...I like to see the people. Remind myself I do this.



Use the visor, Bruce... focuss...

...see what sees...the energy patterns. Figure it out. His, where he's headed...

...but more than this, see them...

...for who they are.

Good people.

See their, their hopes.

They're the Children of Gotham... of...





...NO.

NO!

not ~~him~~,
Bruce...
not...

not ~~him~~
not



B-BATMAN,
ARE YOU
THERE?

I... I AM.

IT
APPEARS
YOU WERE
RIGHT.

THE GRIM
KNIGHT SEEMS TO
BE USING THE CITY'S
ELECTRICAL GRID TO
DIRECT MORE ENERGY TO
CERTAIN REPOSITORIES
OF DARK METAL.



YOU
STRIPPED
MOST OF IT OUT,
BUT THERE IS ENOUGH
LEFT IN SOME PLACES
TO CREATE
PORTALS.

THAT'S HOW
THEY'RE DOING IT.
CHOOSING WHICH BRUCE
WAYNES TO BRING
THROUGH. IF YOU CAN
FIGURE OUT
WHERE--

I WILL,
ALFRED.
PATCH ME
THROUGH TO
JAMES.

BATMAN?

HAVE YOU FOUND THE WATERWAY HE'S PLANNING TO USE?

I'VE NARROWED IT DOWN TO THREE.

I'M ABOUT TO CHECK THE BIGGEST ONE RIGHT NOW.

LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU'RE THERE. SIGNING OFF--

WAIT!

WHAT IS IT, JAMES?

HOW... HOW ARE YOU?

I'M FINE.

CALL ME WHEN--

WAIT! BEFORE YOU GO, WHEN I WAS GROWING UP, MY FATHER, HE ALWAYS RESPECTED YOUR CODE. THE **NO-KILLING RULE**. ONE DEATH, EVEN JOKER'S, WOULD BE A **SLIPPERY SLOPE**.

TO ME, THOUGH, THAT WAS NONSENSE. SEE, BEFORE MY TREATMENT, I SAW PEOPLE AS **SELFISH. SMALL. CRUEL.**

SO WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM, BY MY HAND, OR BY THE HAND OF **GOTHAM**...IT WAS JUSTICE. BAD PEOPLE, BAD CITY, BAD FATE. IT ALL MAKES PERFECT SENSE. **ONE FLAT VOICE.**



NOW, THOUGH,
BEING THIS WAY...
IT DOESN'T MATCH
UP ANYMORE. NOT
AT ALL.

BAD THINGS
HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE.
THERE'S A DISCONNECT,
AND THAT'S WHERE EMOTION
COMES IN, VOICES GO
UP AND DOWN.

WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING?



I'M SAYING I
WAS ALREADY WHO I WAS
LONG BEFORE I KILLED ANYONE.
THE SLOPE ISN'T THE ACTION,
IT'S THE BELIEF.

IT'S HOW YOU
SEE THINGS. I KNOW HOW
SEDUCTIVE IT CAN BE. I MISS
IT EVEN NOW, THE WAY IT
ALL MAKES SENSE...



JAMES,
I HAVE
TO GO.

I KNOW
WHERE HE'S
HEADED
NEXT.



ONE LAST
THING, THOUGH. YOU
ASKED ME BACK IN THE
SEWERS IF YOU WERE
GOING TO LOSE
TO HIM. AND YOU
WON'T.

BUT EVEN
WHEN YOU WIN, IN
CASE YOU CAN'T STOP
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO
YOU...DO YOU HAVE
A FAIL-SAFE?

...BATMAN?

**THREE HOURS PRIOR. BENEATH GOTHAM:
LAST LAUGH RESOURCE COMPOUND.**



COMPUTER,
TEST WATER FOR
CONTAMINANTS.



FULL CLEAN.



TEST
AGAIN.

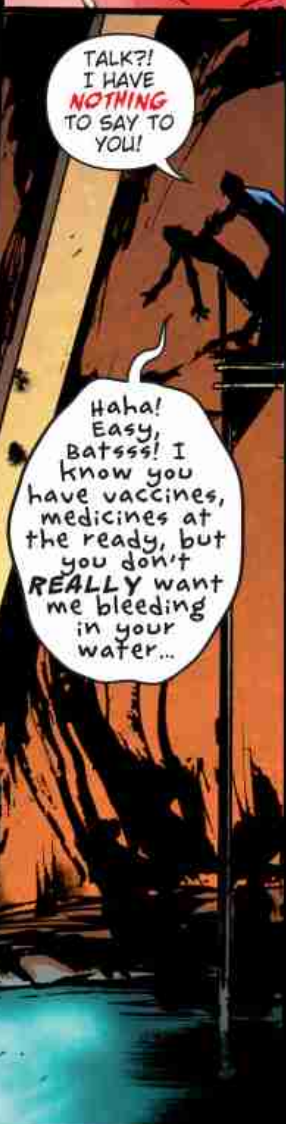


Good
for you,
Batsssss...

...you
never can
be too
careful.



YOU?!





Because!
I came to
say--

SAY WHAT?
"HAHA"? TO
LAUGH?!

To say...

SAY WHAT!
YOU GOT WHAT
YOU WANTED!

No I
didn't!



WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?

YOU PUT
THAT DAMN TOXIN
IN YOUR HEART
YOURSELF.

IT WAS
ALWAYS YOUR
FINAL TRAP.

you and
I...we'll always
be at war. you think
we matter, I think
life is a bad
@#%&! joke.

I believe
that one day
I'll win. That I'll
watch you scream
at my feet as this
city dies, and on
that day
I will laugh
at you.



But just
once, and
never again,
here and
now...I...I
want you
to know...



...that's
not what
I want.

SO WHAT,
THEN? YOU
WANT ME TO
WIN?



No.

WHAT
THEN?

I want
neither of
us to win.
Ever.

Heh.





SO YOU'RE
HERE TO SAY
GOOD-BYE?



No, Bats.
I'm here to
say good
luck.



...

JOKER, LISTEN
TO ME. MY FRIEND, MY
AIDE...IF I TURN INTO THAT
MONSTER, HE WON'T DO
WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.
I KNOW IT. HE WON'T BE
ABLE TO. BUT YOU...IF
I TURN INTO HIM--



Oh, I'll blow
your *%#@%##
head off. Heh.



HEH...
CROSS YOUR
HEART?



And hope
you die.



It was the
scariest sound,
the laughter...

BLACKGATE PRISON. NOW.

...I'd hear it as soon as I entered this block.

This section of Blackgate used to be a transitional wing for inmates from Arkham. **Red** who'd been treated at the asylum, found rational.

You'd think Arkham would be the **Red**, but this wing...the joy the inmates felt having escaped Arkham...it was haunting.

Now it's barely used, which is why I am in no rush to strip the dark metal from the pilings in the **Red**...

SIR,
THE ENERGY
READING IS
RISING.

IT'S OFF THE
CHARTS. THIS IS
THE PLACE.

MY GUESS IS
WHATEVER PORTAL
HE'S CREATING
WILL OPEN ANY
SECOND.

BE CAREFUL,
SIR. IF THE PORTAL
CAN BRING ANOTHER
BRUCE WAYNE HERE,
COULDN'T IT ALSO BRING
YOU TO WHATEVER
DIMENSION IS ON
THE OTHER S--

FREEZE!



I SAID,
FREEZE!

LISTEN TO
ME, SON--

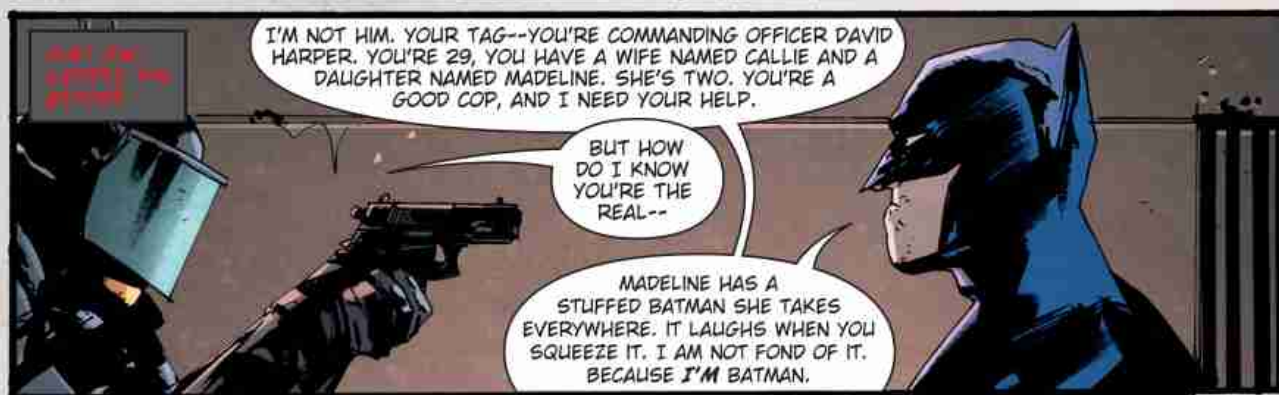
SHUT UP!
YOU'RE... YOU'RE
HIM! YOU'RE THE ONE
WHO LAUGHS!



SHOOT!

I'LL
DO IT!

SHOOT!



I'M NOT HIM. YOUR TAG--YOU'RE COMMANDING OFFICER DAVID
HARPER. YOU'RE 29, YOU HAVE A WIFE NAMED CALLIE AND A
DAUGHTER NAMED MADELINE. SHE'S TWO. YOU'RE A
GOOD COP, AND I NEED YOUR HELP.

BUT HOW
DO I KNOW
YOU'RE THE
REAL--

MADLINE HAS A
STUFFED BATMAN SHE TAKES
EVERYWHERE. IT LAUGHS WHEN YOU
SQUEEZE IT. I AM NOT FOND OF IT.
BECAUSE I'M BATMAN.



O...OKAY.

I'M HERE
LOOKING FOR
SOMEONE, DAVID. AS A
COMMANDING OFFICER,
YOU CAN OPEN AND
CLOSE DOORS.

WHERE'S THE
PERSON YOU'RE
LOOKING FOR?

HE SHOULD
BE AROUND
HERE...

Blip

...SOMEWHERE?

WHAT IN...?
PENNY-ONE,
COME IN.

PENNY-ONE!
THIS PLACE JUST
CHANGED.

I MUST HAVE
CROSSED THROUGH
WHATEVER PORTAL IS
OPEN...THIS BLACKGATE
IS **MASSIVE**...IT MUST
BE FOUR TIMES THE
SIZE OF--

SIX
TIMES THE SIZE,
ACTUALLY...

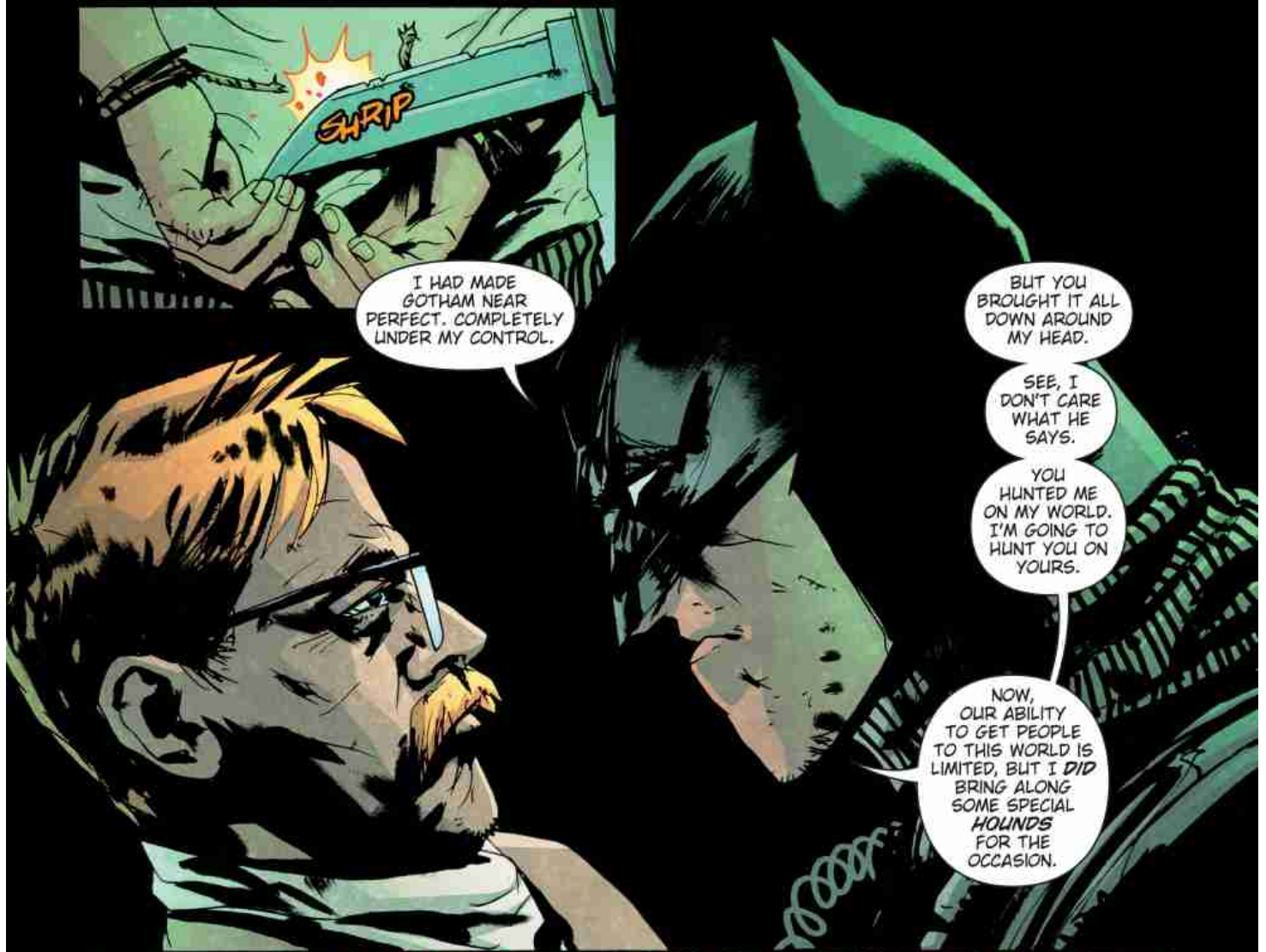
...IF YOU'RE
COMPARING IT TO
THE OLD BLACKGATE,
WE HAVE ANOTHER
ISLAND WHERE ARKHAM
USED TO BE,
TOO.

I'M BRUCE
WAYNE. I RUN
THIS PLACE.
WELCOME...

"...TO THE
END OF THE
LINE."

GET
UP. NOW.

WHY?
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING?



I HAD MADE
GOTHAM NEAR
PERFECT. COMPLETELY
UNDER MY CONTROL.

BUT YOU
BROUGHT IT ALL
DOWN AROUND
MY HEAD.

SEE, I
DON'T CARE
WHAT HE
SAYS.

YOU
HUNTED ME
ON MY WORLD.
I'M GOING TO
HUNT YOU ON
YOURS.

NOW,
OUR ABILITY
TO GET PEOPLE
TO THIS WORLD IS
LIMITED, BUT I *DID*
BRING ALONG
SOME SPECIAL
HOUNDS
FOR THE
OCCASION.



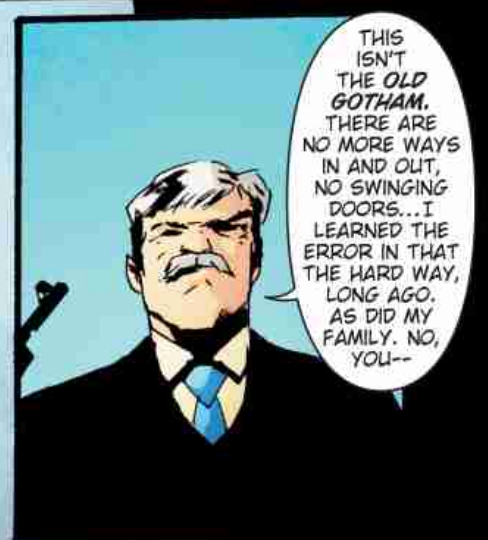
NOW GO.
RUN, JIM.

RUN.



MR. WAYNE,
LISTEN TO ME.
YOU'RE IN
DANGER.

HA! I'M IN
DANGER. YOU COME
IN HERE, WITH THE
NERVE TO DRESS IN
THAT COSTUME, AND
I'M IN *DANGER*?



THIS
ISN'T
THE *OLD*
GOTHAM.
THERE ARE
NO MORE WAYS
IN AND OUT,
NO SWINGING
DOORS...I
LEARNED THE
ERROR IN THAT
THE HARD WAY,
LONG AGO.
AS DID MY
FAMILY. NO,
YOU--





"...PAST THE DANGER.
THE TERROR..."



"...YOU'RE TRYING TO
SEE THINGS THROUGH
THE EYES OF YOUR
ROBINS, AREN'T YOU?"



"THROUGH THE EYES
OF YOUR SO-CALLED
CHILDREN..."

"...BUT THEY KNEW,
BATMAN. THE HOPE
YOU SAW IN PEOPLE, IT
WAS A LIE. THAT'S
WHY DICK, WHY ALL OF
THEM, STAYED HIGH
ABOVE."



"BUT I'M HERE
TO TELL YOU THE
TRUTH. I'LL EVEN
TAKE THE DIGITAL
MASK OFF SO
YOU CAN SEE."

"NONONO..."

"YES. THE HARD TRUTH IS,
YOU'RE FINALLY SEEING
THINGS CLEARLY..."

"...BECAUSE FOR THE
FIRST TIME EVER, YOU'RE
LOOKING AT GOTHAM
THROUGH THE EYES OF
YOUR REAL CHILD..."



"...YOUR
TRUEST
CHILD..."

"...THE
BATMAN
WHO
LAUGHS..."

"IN OTHER
WORDS..."



...ME.



TURN AROUND SLOWLY! ONE FALSE MOVE AND WE--

NO! NO, HE'S RIGHT THERE! STOP HIM!

HE SAID, @#%#% TURN AROUND! NOW!



WAXX INITIATE

LISTEN TO ME! THIS IS COMMANDING OFFICER HARPER! THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS, HE KILLED BRUCE WAYNE AND HE'S GOT A TRIGGER DEVICE! TAKE HIM OUT NOW!

YES, SIR!

NO... WAIT--

I tell myself to see the best, the good...but



**OPEN
FIRE!**

THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS

PART 4

SCOTT SNYDER Writer JOCK Artist
DAVID BARON Colors SAL CIPRIANO Letters
JOCK Cover JENNY FRISON Variant Cover
DAVE WIELGOSZ Asst. Editor KATIE KUBERT Editor
JAMIE S. RICH Group Editor
BATMAN Created by BOB KANE with BILL FINGER

NEXT:
THE LINE OF FIRE



WORLDS COLLIDE...
ONE LAST TIME!

IDW
PUBLISHING



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BATMAN/TEENAGE MUTANT
NINJA TURTLES

MAY



BATMAN/TEENAGE MUTANT
NINJA TURTLES II

An interview between *UNDER THE MOON: A CATWOMAN TALE* team

LAUREN MYRACLE AND ISAAC GOODHART

DC NATION

Lauren Myracle: Hello, friend! You ready to get this party going?

Isaac Goodhart: Let's do it!

Lauren: How do you, as an artist, see this particular job of illustrating a graphic novel? Because not only are you getting "direction" from me, but Catwoman already existed before we came along! How do you put all that aside and find a way to dive in on your own?

Isaac: Honestly, when our editors first talked to me about the book, I instinctually thought of a handful of artists that would do a good (better?) job. I thought of maybe tailoring my style to look more like those other artists, even. But when I asked for examples of what the other artists in our line were doing, editor Bobbie Chase told me they wanted me for a reason and to trust my instincts. That was probably the most helpful thing she said early on.

Lauren: Did knowing that we were creating a story for a younger set of readers influence your art? Did you have to tone down the sexy?

Isaac: Hm, style-wise I don't think I had to alter anything. I just wanted to draw high school

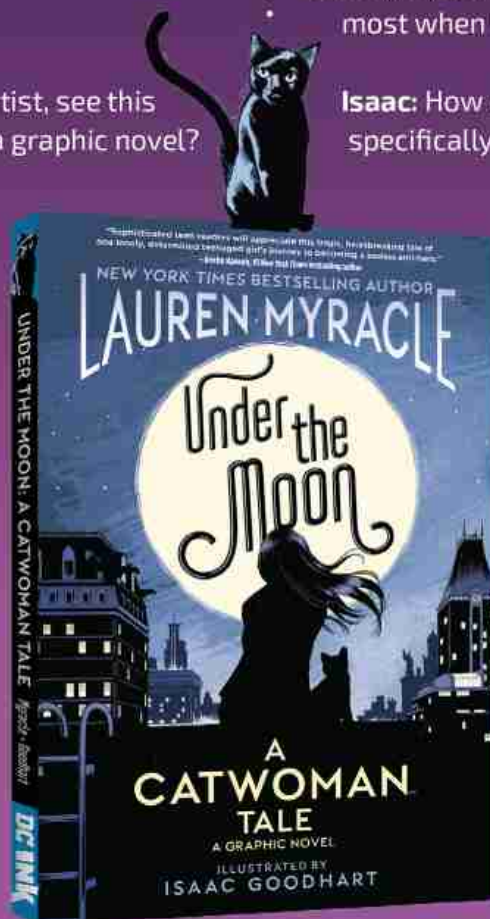
as close to how I remembered it as I could. I was aware that we were drawing for a younger audience, so I thought of the books I loved the most when I was in high school and why.

Isaac: How did you learn how to write specifically for comics?

Lauren: I was plagued by doubts at the onset, because who was I to design to write a graphic novel script? And for Catwoman?! Though I will always call our Selina Catgirl. (She's not yet a woman!) I got to sit in on two online tutorials, one led by Mariko Tamaki and the other led by Gene Yang(!!!). The panel-by-panel demands made me a better writer, for sure, because I had to come up with ACTION for every fucking panel. Where are all the lovely scenes of high schoolers just sitting around TALKING? I guess there's a reason literary fiction doesn't translate well to graphic novels!

Lauren: Who's your fave character in UTM? And which character are you the most like?

Isaac: My favorite character is Selina. I'm the most like her by a mile. Like Selina, I've had some difficult relationships in my family. I dealt with stresses and tough times like she does. I always made sure to present a good front. And like her, I've always had a very strong sense of identity.



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The Last Kryptonian-DCP



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It goes...
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There's even a Latin version on our subway token.
"Through new eyes..."

There's truth in it, though.

I've never told anyone this, but whenever I have a... whenever I doubt myself, or my mission as Batman (like now...), I try to see things through my children's eyes.

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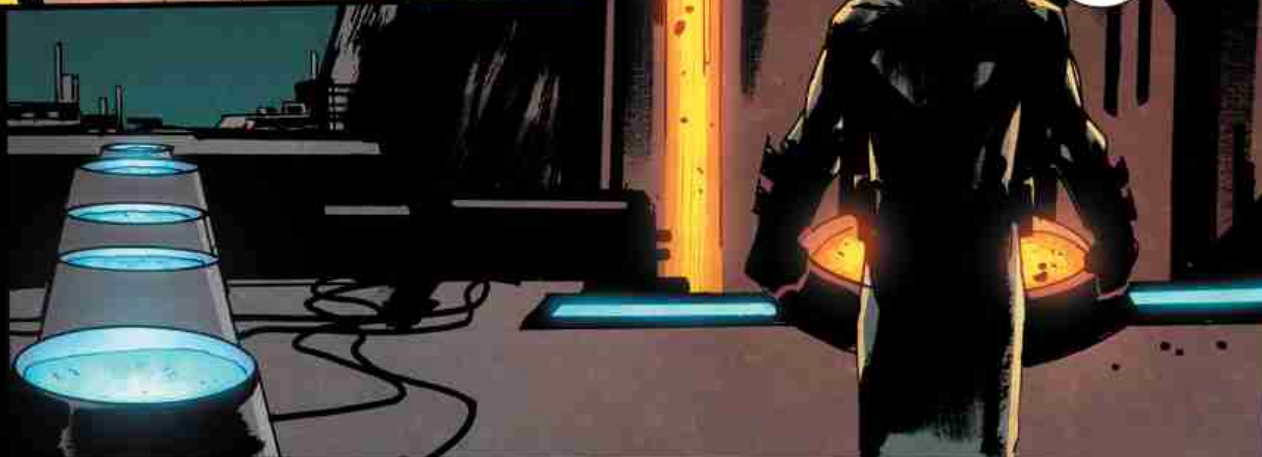


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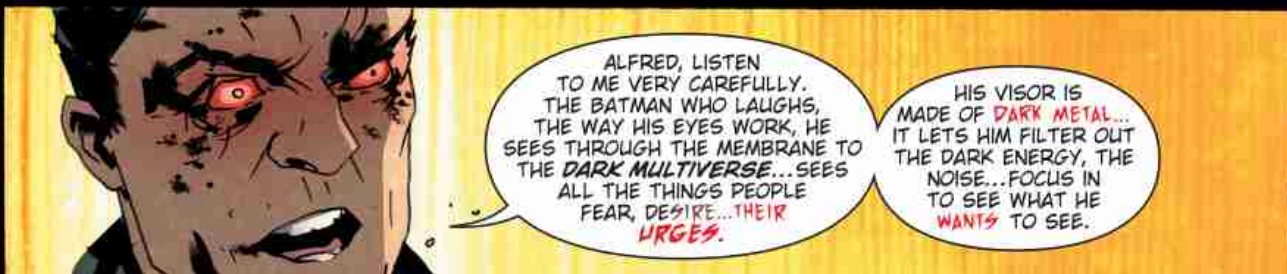
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GIVE
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NO! EVERY
MONSTER YOU'VE
FACED...YOU ALWAYS WON
BY REMAINING TRUE TO
WHO YOU ARE.

MY BOY. BRUCE
WAYNE. THIS...I
WON'T LET YOU!







I'M GOING TO CRIPPLE YOU...

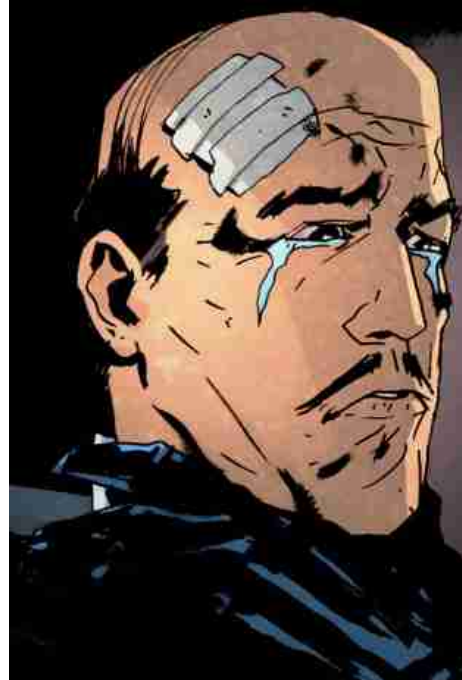
BRUCE, I LOVE YOU. LOOK AT ME!

...HURT YOU. HURT YOU SO BAD... SO YOU'LL NEVER LEAVE ME...

...EVER AGAIN!



YOU THINK YOU CAN HURT ME?!



ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR YEARS IS HOLD ME BACK! I'VE CARRIED YOU OUT OF PITY! BECAUSE YOU'RE PATHETIC! YOU THINK YOU'RE SOME FATHER TO ME?!

WELL IT'S LONG PAST TIME FOR ME TO...

PLEASE... --KOFF-- BRUCE...



...STOP?



"LOOK AT
YOU GO..."



...STRUGGLING
AND FIGHTING EVEN
THOUGH THERE'S
NOWHERE
TO RUN.

THERE,
YOU CAN
SEE!

HELLO.

SO GOOD
TO FINALLY
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JIM.

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YOU, THOUGH, EVEN
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SO TO BE FUNNY,
JOKER BOOBY-TRAPPED YOUR
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GGGKKK.

YES, YOU
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BUT HERE
YOU ARE, NOSE
AND ALL! HAA! FUNNY,
BECAUSE IF IT WASN'T
FOR YOUR DEATH...BAT-
MAN WOULDN'T HAVE
KILLED THE JOKER
AND THERE'D BE
NO ME.

SEE, IN A
WAY, YOU'RE
MY **BEST
FRIEND, TOO.**
HAHA!



SO WELCOME, BEST FRIEND, TO MY HOME BENEATH GOTHAM CITY!

I THINK YOU'LL FIND IT PLEASANT ENOUGH, IF YOU BEHAVE BY MY BOOK.

ON THE OTHER HAND, IF YOU MISBEHAVE...



WELL, YOU AND THE GRIM KNIGHT, YOU'RE DECIDEDLY NOT FRIENDS. ON HIS WORLD...

PLEASE MISBEHAVE, JIM.

*MAKE SURE YOU READ THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS: THE GRIM KNIGHT #1!--K.K.



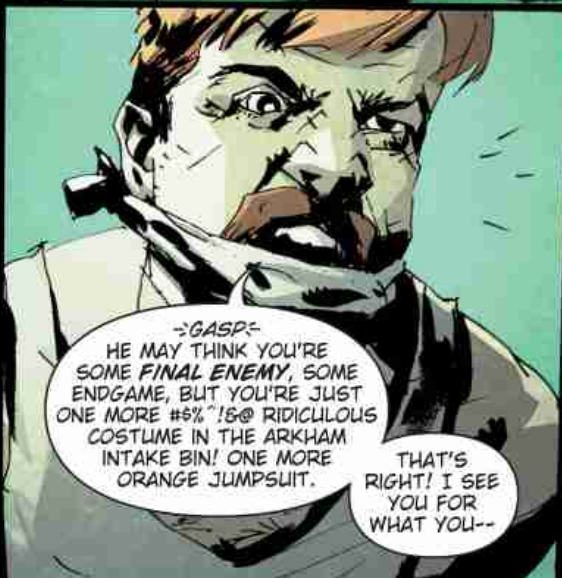
MMFFF!

DON'T WORRY, YOU WON'T BE HERE LONG! WE'RE ALMOST DONE, JIM. SEE THERE? ON THAT TABLET

I ALREADY HAVE FOUR CANISTERS...AND SIX WILL BE JUST ENOUGH TO CHANGE THE WHOLE CITY.

YOU GET TO SEE IT THIS TIME, JIM.

HEY, WITH A LITTLE SERUM, MAYBE YOU AND I CAN EVEN BE PARTNERS HERE, TOO.



=GASP=-
HE MAY THINK YOU'RE SOME FINAL ENEMY, SOME ENDGAME, BUT YOU'RE JUST ONE MORE ##%#!\$@ RIDICULOUS COSTUME IN THE ARKHAM INTAKE BIN! ONE MORE ORANGE JUMPSUIT.

THAT'S RIGHT! I SEE YOU FOR WHAT YOU--



--ARE.

I'M SURE YOU DO, JIM.

HERE. DON'T FORGET THESE.

ELSEWHERE...

Dick always liked the rooftops...all of them did. Swinging, flying...seeing the city from above.

I prefer the streets, with the Batmobile in as a station wagon, a sedan, a taxi...

...I like to see the people. Remind myself I do this.



Use the visor, Bruce... focuss...

...see what sees...the energy patterns. Figure it out. His, where he's headed...

...but more than this, see them...

...for who they are.

Good people.

See their, their hopes.

They're the Children of Gotham... of...





B-BATMAN,
ARE YOU
THERE?

I... I AM.

IT
APPEARS
YOU WERE
RIGHT.

THE GRIM
KNIGHT SEEMS TO
BE USING THE CITY'S
ELECTRICAL GRID TO
DIRECT MORE ENERGY TO
CERTAIN REPOSITORIES
OF DARK METAL.



YOU
STRIPPED
MOST OF IT OUT,
BUT THERE IS ENOUGH
LEFT IN SOME PLACES
TO CREATE
PORTALS.

THAT'S HOW
THEY'RE DOING IT.
CHOOSING WHICH BRUCE
WAYNES TO BRING
THROUGH. IF YOU CAN
FIGURE OUT
WHERE--

I WILL,
ALFRED.
PATCH ME
THROUGH TO
JAMES.

BATMAN?

HAVE YOU FOUND THE WATERWAY HE'S PLANNING TO USE?

I'VE NARROWED IT DOWN TO THREE.

I'M ABOUT TO CHECK THE BIGGEST ONE RIGHT NOW.

LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU'RE THERE. SIGNING OFF--

WAIT!

WHAT IS IT, JAMES?

HOW... HOW ARE YOU?

I'M FINE.

CALL ME WHEN--

WAIT! BEFORE YOU GO, WHEN I WAS GROWING UP, MY FATHER, HE ALWAYS RESPECTED YOUR CODE. THE NO-KILLING RULE. ONE DEATH, EVEN JOKER'S, WOULD BE A SLIPPERY SLOPE.

TO ME, THOUGH, THAT WAS NONSENSE. SEE, BEFORE MY TREATMENT, I SAW PEOPLE AS SELFISH. SMALL. CRUEL.

SO WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM, BY MY HAND, OR BY THE HAND OF GOTHAM...IT WAS JUSTICE. BAD PEOPLE, BAD CITY, BAD FATE. IT ALL MAKES PERFECT SENSE. ONE FLAT VOICE.



NOW, THOUGH,
BEING THIS WAY...
IT DOESN'T MATCH
UP ANYMORE. NOT
AT ALL.

BAD THINGS
HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE.
THERE'S A DISCONNECT,
AND THAT'S WHERE EMOTION
COMES IN, VOICES GO
UP AND DOWN.

WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING?



I'M SAYING I
WAS ALREADY WHO I WAS
LONG BEFORE I KILLED ANYONE.
THE SLOPE ISN'T THE ACTION,
IT'S THE BELIEF.

IT'S HOW YOU
SEE THINGS. I KNOW HOW
SEDUCTIVE IT CAN BE. I MISS
IT EVEN NOW, THE WAY IT
ALL MAKES SENSE...



JAMES,
I HAVE
TO GO.

I KNOW
WHERE HE'S
HEADED
NEXT.



ONE LAST
THING, THOUGH. YOU
ASKED ME BACK IN THE
SEWERS IF YOU WERE
GOING TO LOSE
TO HIM. AND YOU
WON'T.

BUT EVEN
WHEN YOU WIN, IN
CASE YOU CAN'T STOP
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO
YOU...DO YOU HAVE
A FAIL-SAFE?

...BATMAN?

**THREE HOURS PRIOR. BENEATH GOTHAM:
LAST LAUGH RESOURCE COMPOUND.**



COMPUTER,
TEST WATER FOR
CONTAMINANTS.



FULL CLEAN.



TEST
AGAIN.

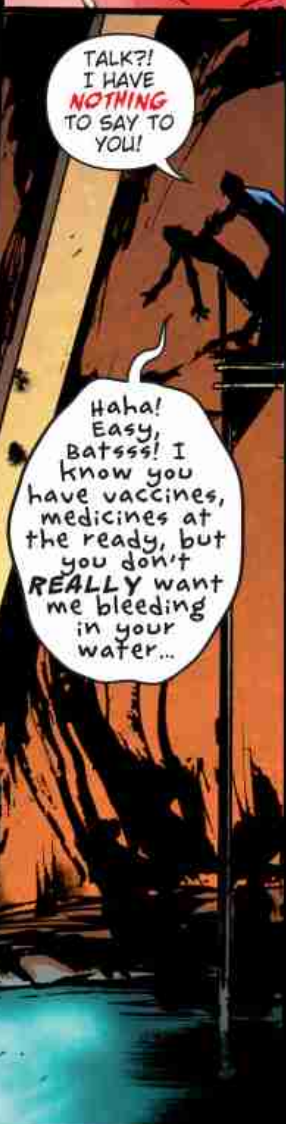


Good
for you,
Batsssss...

...you
never can
be too
careful.



YOU?!





Because!
I came to
say--

SAY WHAT?
"HAHA"? TO
LAUGH?!

To say...

SAY WHAT!
YOU GOT WHAT
YOU WANTED!

No I
didn't!



WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?

YOU PUT
THAT DAMN TOXIN
IN YOUR HEART
YOURSELF.

IT WAS
ALWAYS YOUR
FINAL TRAP.

you and
I...we'll always
be at war. you think
we matter, I think
life is a bad
@!#\$%^& joke.

I believe
that one day
I'll win. That I'll
watch you scream
at my feet as this
city dies, and on
that day
I will laugh
at you.

But just
once, and
never again,
here and
now...I...I
want you
to know...



...that's
not what
I want.

SO WHAT,
THEN? YOU
WANT ME TO
WIN?



No.

WHAT
THEN?

I want
neither of
us to win.
Ever.

Heh.





SO YOU'RE
HERE TO SAY
GOOD-BYE?



No, Bats.
I'm here to
say good
luck.



...

JOKER, LISTEN
TO ME. MY FRIEND, MY
AIDE...IF I TURN INTO THAT
MONSTER, HE WON'T DO
WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.
I KNOW IT. HE WON'T BE
ABLE TO. BUT YOU...IF
I TURN INTO HIM--



oh, I'll blow
your *%&@%#*
head off. Heh.



HEH...
CROSS YOUR
HEART?



And hope
you die.



It was the
scariest sound,
the laughter...

BLACKGATE PRISON. NOW.

...I'd hear it as soon as I entered this block.

This section of Blackgate used to be a transitional wing for inmates from Arkham. *[redacted]* who'd been treated at the asylum, found rational.

You'd think Arkham would be the *[redacted]*, but this wing...the joy the inmates felt having escaped Arkham...it was haunting.

Now it's barely used, which is why I am in no rush to strip the dark metal from the pilings in the *[redacted]*...

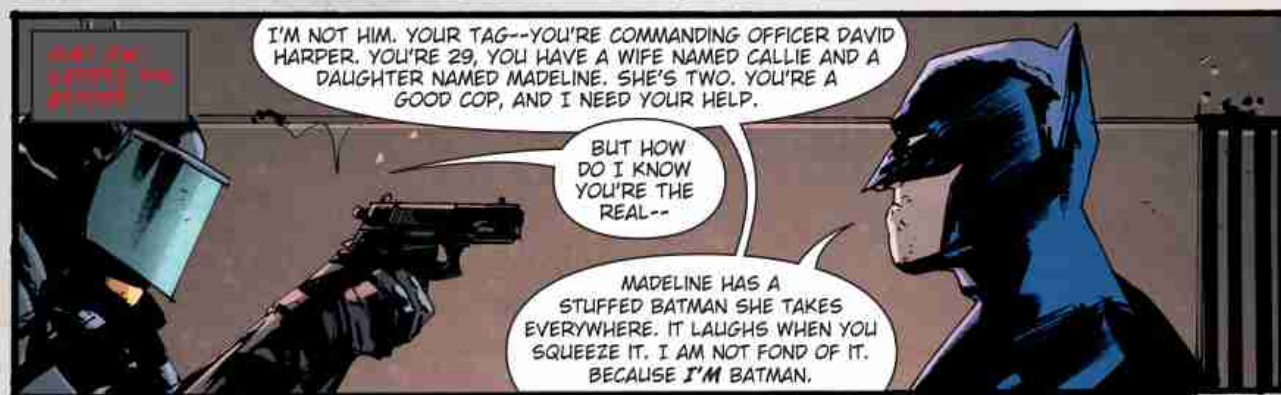
SIR,
THE ENERGY
READING IS
RISING.

IT'S OFF THE
CHARTS. THIS IS
THE PLACE.

MY GUESS IS
WHATEVER PORTAL
HE'S CREATING
WILL OPEN ANY
SECOND.

BE CAREFUL,
SIR. IF THE PORTAL
CAN BRING ANOTHER
BRUCE WAYNE HERE,
COULDN'T IT ALSO BRING
YOU TO WHATEVER
DIMENSION IS ON
THE OTHER S--

FREEZE!



Blip

...SOMEWHERE?

WHAT IN...?
PENNY-ONE,
COME IN.

PENNY-ONE!
THIS PLACE JUST
CHANGED.

I MUST HAVE
CROSSED THROUGH
WHATEVER PORTAL IS
OPEN...THIS BLACKGATE
IS **MASSIVE**...IT MUST
BE FOUR TIMES THE
SIZE OF--

SIX
TIMES THE SIZE,
ACTUALLY...

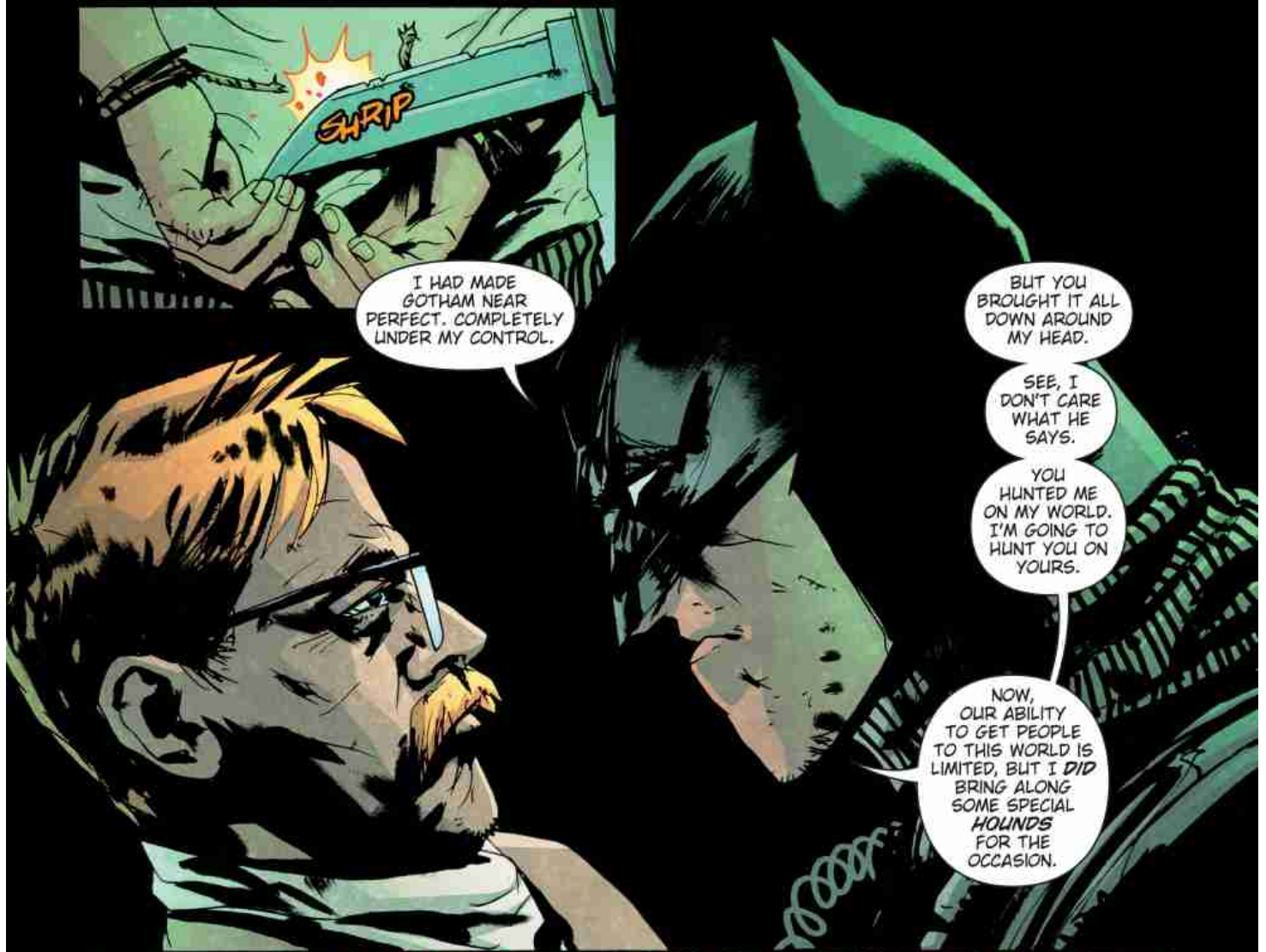
...IF YOU'RE
COMPARING IT TO
THE OLD BLACKGATE,
WE HAVE ANOTHER
ISLAND WHERE ARKHAM
USED TO BE,
TOO.

I'M BRUCE
WAYNE. I RUN
THIS PLACE.
WELCOME...

"...TO THE
END OF THE
LINE."

GET
UP. NOW.

WHY?
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING?



I HAD MADE
GOTHAM NEAR
PERFECT. COMPLETELY
UNDER MY CONTROL.

BUT YOU
BROUGHT IT ALL
DOWN AROUND
MY HEAD.

SEE, I
DON'T CARE
WHAT HE
SAYS.

YOU
HUNTED ME
ON MY WORLD.
I'M GOING TO
HUNT YOU ON
YOURS.

NOW,
OUR ABILITY
TO GET PEOPLE
TO THIS WORLD IS
LIMITED, BUT I *DID*
BRING ALONG
SOME SPECIAL
HOUNDS
FOR THE
OCCASION.



NOW GO.
RUN, JIM.

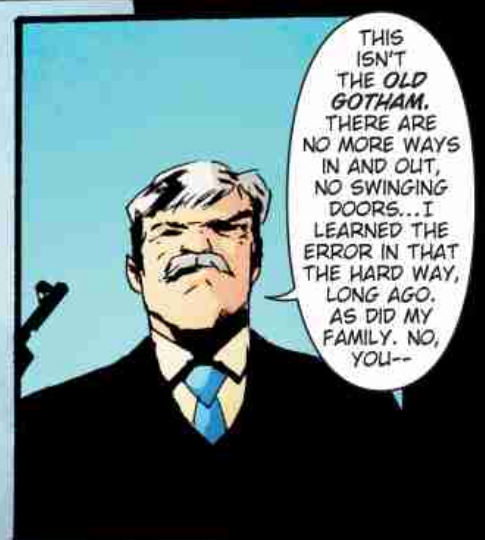
RUN.

GROOOO!



MR. WAYNE,
LISTEN TO ME.
YOU'RE IN
DANGER.

HA! I'M IN
DANGER. YOU COME
IN HERE, WITH THE
NERVE TO DRESS IN
THAT COSTUME, AND
I'M IN *DANGER*?



THIS
ISN'T
THE *OLD*
GOTHAM.
THERE ARE
NO MORE WAYS
IN AND OUT,
NO SWINGING
DOORS...I
LEARNED THE
ERROR IN THAT
THE HARD WAY,
LONG AGO.
AS DID MY
FAMILY. NO,
YOU--





"...PAST THE DANGER.
THE TERROR..."



"...YOU'RE TRYING TO
SEE THINGS THROUGH
THE EYES OF YOUR
ROBINS, AREN'T YOU?"



"THROUGH THE EYES
OF YOUR SO-CALLED
CHILDREN..."

"...BUT THEY KNEW,
BATMAN. THE HOPE
YOU SAW IN PEOPLE, IT
WAS A LIE. THAT'S
WHY DICK, WHY ALL OF
THEM, STAYED HIGH
ABOVE."



"BUT I'M HERE
TO TELL YOU THE
TRUTH. I'LL EVEN
TAKE THE DIGITAL
MASK OFF SO
YOU CAN SEE."

"NONONO..."

"YES. THE HARD TRUTH IS,
YOU'RE FINALLY SEEING
THINGS CLEARLY..."

"...BECAUSE FOR THE
FIRST TIME EVER, YOU'RE
LOOKING AT GOTHAM
THROUGH THE EYES OF
YOUR REAL CHILD..."



"...YOUR
TRUEST
CHILD..."

"...THE
BATMAN
WHO
LAUGHS..."

"IN OTHER
WORDS..."



...ME.



TURN AROUND SLOWLY! ONE FALSE MOVE AND WE--

NO! NO, HE'S RIGHT THERE! STOP HIM!

HE SAID, @#%#% TURN AROUND! NOW!



WAXX INITIATE

LISTEN TO ME! THIS IS COMMANDING OFFICER HARPER! THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS, HE KILLED BRUCE WAYNE AND HE'S GOT A TRIGGER DEVICE! TAKE HIM OUT NOW!

YES, SIR!

NO... WAIT--

I tell myself to see the best, the good...but



OPEN
FIRE!

THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS

PART 4

SCOTT SNYDER Writer JOCK Artist
DAVID BARON Colors SAL CIPRIANO Letters
JOCK Cover JENNY FRISON Variant Cover
DAVE WIELGOSZ Asst. Editor KATIE KUBERT Editor
JAMIE S. RICH Group Editor
BATMAN Created by BOB KANE with BILL FINGER

NEXT:
THE LINE OF FIRE



WORLDS COLLIDE...
ONE LAST TIME!

IDW
PUBLISHING



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BATMAN/TEENAGE MUTANT
NINJA TURTLES

BATMAN TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES III

A NEW 6-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES

WRITTEN BY JAMES TYNION IV
ART BY FREDDIE E. WILLIAMS II



BATMAN/TEENAGE MUTANT
NINJA TURTLES II

MAY

An interview between *UNDER THE MOON: A CATWOMAN TALE* team

LAUREN MYRACLE AND ISAAC GOODHART

DC NATION

Lauren Myracle: Hello, friend! You ready to get this party going?

Isaac Goodhart: Let's do it!

Lauren: How do you, as an artist, see this particular job of illustrating a graphic novel? Because not only are you getting "direction" from me, but Catwoman already existed before we came along! How do you put all that aside and find a way to dive in on your own?

Isaac: Honestly, when our editors first talked to me about the book, I instinctually thought of a handful of artists that would do a good (better?) job. I thought of maybe tailoring my style to look more like those other artists, even. But when I asked for examples of what the other artists in our line were doing, editor Bobbie Chase told me they wanted me for a reason and to trust my instincts. That was probably the most helpful thing she said early on.

Lauren: Did knowing that we were creating a story for a younger set of readers influence your art? Did you have to tone down the sexy?

Isaac: Hm, style-wise I don't think I had to alter anything. I just wanted to draw high school

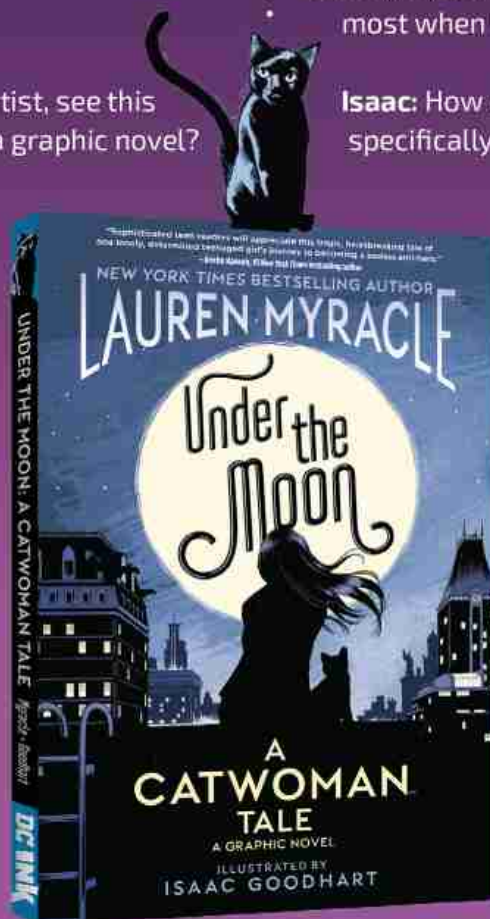
as close to how I remembered it as I could. I was aware that we were drawing for a younger audience, so I thought of the books I loved the most when I was in high school and why.

Isaac: How did you learn how to write specifically for comics?

Lauren: I was plagued by doubts at the onset, because who was I to design to write a graphic novel script? And for Catwoman?! Though I will always call our Selina Catgirl. (She's not yet a woman!) I got to sit in on two online tutorials, one led by Mariko Tamaki and the other led by Gene Yang(!!!). The panel-by-panel demands made me a better writer, for sure, because I had to come up with ACTION for every fucking panel. Where are all the lovely scenes of high schoolers just sitting around TALKING? I guess there's a reason literary fiction doesn't translate well to graphic novels!

Lauren: Who's your fave character in UTM? And which character are you the most like?

Isaac: My favorite character is Selina. I'm the most like her by a mile. Like Selina, I've had some difficult relationships in my family. I dealt with stresses and tough times like she does. I always made sure to present a good front. And like her, I've always had a very strong sense of identity.



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The Last Kryptonian-DCP

